



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE



PRINCIPAL
MR S JENKINS, B.A (HONS), PGDIPEDLD, DIP.TCHG

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDING MEMBER



Welcome to our new Principal

On behalf of the Board I would like to welcome our new Principal Mr Scott Jenkins and to welcome back all staff, students, parents/caregivers and also a big welcome to all new staff and families of our school.

Welcome to our new deputy principals, **Ms Elizabeth Ross** and **Mr Nilesh Prasad**

who, together with deputy principal **Mr Bruce Forsyth** and Senior Leader **Mrs Vicky Marshall**, will be a strong Senior Leadership Team under Mr Jenkins' principalship..



Ms Elizabeth Ross

Mr Nilesh Prasad

Mrs Vicky Marshall

I would like to introduce our current Board of Trustees: Deputy Presiding Members – Mrs Tia Wikaira-Wilson, Mr Matthew Judge and Mrs Catherine Young, and Board members Mrs Margaret Wilton, Mr Chris Wright and Mr Jarrod Hunt. The Staff rep is Mr Kevin Rae and the student rep is Olivia Harris.

MNZM JOHN INGER

Most of our community will have heard the news of Mr John Inger's New Year's Honour as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) that was announced recently. We are delighted for John, Jan and their family. We are also extremely proud of his service and this thoroughly deserved honour. There was a very well-written article about his achievements in *Your Morrinsville News* recently and this underscored all of the beautiful tributes that he received at his farewell in December.

Powhiri to Welcome Mr Jenkins

On Tuesday an official welcoming powhiri was held to bring across our new Principal Mr Jenkins as Principal of our school. This was a memorable occasion involving members of our Maori community, staff and Board of Trustees. Next to Mr Jenkins were his family members and I know that he felt a real sense of pride in being invited to lead a school that he has been involved with for so many years. We were honoured by the presence of the Ngaati Haaua tumuaki Hone Thompson, who was joined by our kuia Mrs Te Ao Marama Maaka and other kaumatua and kuia. It was a special occasion that I am sure that Mr Jenkins will remember for a very long time.

Ngairi Te Ahu

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Welcome back to school life to all students, especially those who have newly arrived at Morrinsville College, and welcome too to you, their parents and caregivers.

Currently, our school roll sits at 748 students and yesterday we welcomed in over 180 Year 9 students to their first day of college life. This is the largest Year 9 cohort and our largest school roll in memory. We have also had a number of enrolments from other schools and students returning from employment or schools in Hamilton. We are humbled by the faith that our community is showing in our school and the opportunities that we offer our students.

During the first term of the year our staff and students are working with the theme "re-engagement through participation". While the Ministry of Education and schools in general responded strongly to the medical requirements of the Covid pandemic, it is clear that New Zealand does not have an education plan to answer the growing learning issues that are only starting to emerge now, and which will affect us for many years to come.

Some students (and some adults) across the country have not quite reconnected with society. Some students are physically at school but not quite yet emotionally present. Due to this concern, our staff have embarked on a deliberate strategy to get our students moving, and in particular to get them moving alongside their peers. Parents are a key part of this strategy. If your son/daughter wants to skip PE or miss swimming sports or athletics, please encourage them participate. While some of our students have genuine barriers in this regard, just being present next to their peers can be enough. If they are unsure whether they should take up a musical instrument, take part in drama or kapa haka, please encourage them to have a go. While this may be difficult as parents in the short-term, in the long-term there is growing academic and anecdotal evidence that this is critical for our young people's mental health and well-being. We need to get them off the couch' and participating.

Year 9 Welcome Powhiri

On Thursday we welcomed our new Year 9 students and new international students alongside our new staff members. This was guided by our kaumatua and kuia and was well-attended by a number of parents and past students. I want to acknowledge Mr Shay Noonan, Principal of Morrinsville School and Mrs Jenny Clark, Principal of Morrinsville Intermediate School, who spoke with real passion for the students that they were entrusting to us.

Staff Changes

Welcome back to **Mr Ngahu Potaka** who has returned from his study leave in 2022.

New teachers welcomed to our school this year are:

- **Mr Richard Tasker** who taught here in Term 1 last year, has been appointed to a full-time permanent position teaching Mathematics.
- **Mrs Rebecca McArdle** who also taught here last year will return to take up a permanent part-time position teaching English
- **Ms Anna Kurth** has been appointed to a permanent part-time Guidance position and will be joining Mr David Baxendine, our full-time Guidance Counsellor.
- **Mrs Joeline McMillan** has been appointed to a permanent part-time position teaching PE and Health.
- **Mr Brian Killen** will once again take up a long-term relieving position for Term 1 teaching Science while we advertise for a replacement for our LAL Science, Mrs Samantha Farook, who was appointed as a Deputy Principal at the new Melville School in Hamilton.
- **Ms Emily Lory** has been appointed to a full-time position as a teacher of Social Sciences for Terms 1 and 2, covering the maternity leave of Ms Charlotte Osborne who will return at the beginning of Term 3.
- **Ms Fran Hardgrave-Costar** will cover the maternity leave of Ms Jasmine Birch in Term 1 as a teacher of Visual Arts until Ms Birch's return at the beginning of Term 2.
- **Mrs Sandra Ginever** has been appointed to a part-time position for Term 1 in the Mathematics Learning Area.
- **Ms Patricia Bevins** is covering the maternity leave of Ms Nikki Paton teaching Social Sciences. Ms Paton returns in Term 2.
- **Ms Stephanie Pickett** has taken up a role as Gateway Workplace Manager working with our Career's Adviser Mrs Jane Thomas.

Year 9 Day 1 Activities



This was a really positive day with our new Year 9 students who familiarised themselves around the school and met their new learning coaches and classroom teachers. A sausage sizzle allowed many of our students from different schools to meet each other and share some kai.

International Students

We would like to welcome our first major group of international students to Morrinsville College since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. We have students from Japan, Cambodia, Thailand and Uruguay. We also have an exchange student from France. We would like to acknowledge the excellent efforts of Mrs Julie Radice and Abby Baty who have worked tirelessly to arrange homestays and complete documentation to enable these students to attend our school.

Year 9 Parent Welcome Event



Parents and Year 9 students are invited to attend our Year 9 Parent Welcome Event which is to be a BBQ 'meet the teachers' event. This will be held on **Wednesday 22 February at 5pm in the A Block Quad area**. Sausages and refreshments will be provided.

Contact Between Home and School

As a contact guide, the following may be helpful:

The best person for you to get in touch with in the first instance is almost certainly your son's/daughter's Learning Coach. Each Learning Coach takes on responsibility for the academic and pastoral needs of each of the 17 or 18 students in their Learning Hub. They help our students to set goals for themselves each year and monitor progress towards these and they track each student's learning and mentor their students in their Hub. They maintain contact with you as parents, especially if there are any issues with your son/daughter.

Each House also has a Kaitiaki leader who plays a very important role as guardian of our school culture, dealing particularly with the pastoral needs and guidance of our students. They are also responsible for leading our staff and students with our Contribute, Listen, Engage, Achieve and Respect (CLEAR) values which we teach to our students to endeavour to produce good learners and citizens. Our Kaitiaki can be contacted by you when there are ongoing issues at school, particularly if there are more serious issues which need to be addressed.

The Kaitiaki for 2023 are:

- Alexandra – Ms Kimberley Snowden
- Campbell – Mr Callum Flynn
- Lincoln – Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy
- Studholme – Mrs Rochelle Johns

Each of these Kaitiaki will be supported by a Manukura. These people are our Deputy Principals or the Senior Leader as follows:

- Alexandra – Mr Bruce Forsyth
- Campbell – Ms Elizabeth Ross
- Lincoln – Mr Nilesh Prasad
- Studholme – Mrs Vicky Marshall

Our Deans are in charge of any learning/academic concerns and ensuring that students are placed in the right classes. In 2023 these people are:

- Year 9 – Mr Mike Duncan
- Year 10 – Miss Megan Chambers
- Year 11 – Mrs Vicky Marshall
- Year 12 – Mr Daniel McNamara
- Year 13 – Mrs Kobie Joubert.

Our Guidance Counsellors are **Mr David Baxendine** and **Mrs Anna Kurth**. These people are specialist trained counsellors and are available to any students, who can self-refer or be referred by others, including parents.

Our Careers Adviser is **Mrs Jane Thomas** and our Gateway Coordinator is **Mrs Stephanie Pickett**. They are very willing to talk with students and their parents about careers, further education and training.

In the Administration area **Mrs Grace Martin** is the Principal's Personal Assistant, **Mrs Glenis Holten**, **Mrs Andrea Keightley** and **Mrs Raelene Duncan** are our Office administrators, Mrs Andrea Keightley is also our Attendance Administrator and **Mrs Ria Irle** is our Finance Secretary. Our Business Manager is **Mr Patrick O'Shaughnessy**.

Mrs Vicky Broomfield is our Sports Coordinator. **Mrs Wilma Gray** and **Mrs Margaret Findsen** are our Canteen Staff, **Mr Roger Harris** is our school Caretaker, **Mr Brendan Waters** is our Groundsman and **Mr Vince Crispe** is our mowing contractor.

To contact your son's/daughter's Learning Coach, Kaitiaki, Deans, or Guidance Counsellors, please telephone the school Office (8898308) to arrange a suitable time. If there are what you consider to be very serious issues, please make contact with one of the deputy principals.

Always telephone the Office firstly to make an appointment with members of the Senior Leadership Team as we are always very busy and you cannot expect that someone will be available if you turn up without an appointment. We will, however, make every effort to see you the same day if at all possible.

Unless there is an emergency, please do not contact us at home - we appreciate the time that we have with our families.

School to Home

You will be notified by newsletter (which is directly emailed to parents approximately every two-and-a-half to three weeks) or text message of special evenings, meetings and events during the year. You will also be advised by text message if your son/daughter is not at school and we have not received a message from you to signal why this is the case.

Parents can access each newsletter on the College website, www.morrncoll.school.nz, and through the Skool Loop App which you can download to your cellphone (instructions at the end of this newsletter). Our website also contains a wide range of other information that you may well find interesting, so please take a look at it.

We also have a Morrinsville College Facebook page and we are on Instagram which is becoming a very popular contact point for our students and parents. These will contain information in case of an emergency situation, photos of events during the year and a lot of other information to keep parents informed.

Students Requiring Passes to Leave School for Appointments

Students requiring passes to leave school during school hours, for instance to attend a dentist's or doctor's appointment, **MUST** bring a note to the school Office **BEFORE** school so that passes can then be processed and collected by students at interval.

Regulation Uniform

As students return to school, staff will often notice non-regulation items that have crept in over the summer. Typically, these might include facial piercings including hoops which do bring health and safety implications. Sometimes our students have grown dramatically over the summer. In each of these cases we expect students to bring a note from home for their learning coaches and kaitiaki and to have a plan on how they might resolve the uniform issues. We have included an attachment with this newsletter with our uniform regulations so that everyone has transparent clarity.

Football (Soccer) Uniforms

A number of football (soccer) uniforms have still not been returned from team members who played last season. Please check that your son/daughter has returned their uniform and return it to the school Office as soon as possible please. An invoice will be sent to those students whose uniforms are not returned.

Scott Jenkins, Principal

TERM DATES FOR 2023


TERM 1 Tuesday 2 February to Thursday 6 April
 TERM 2 Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June
 TERM 3 Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September
 TERM 4 Monday 9 October to Wednesday 13 December.

COMING EVENTS



Mon 6 - Wed 8 February	Year 13 Camp at Totara Springs
Tue 7 - Wed 8 February	Te Puaawaitanga Waananga/Noho
Mon 13 February	Hub and ID Photos
Wed 15 February	Swimming Heats
Wed 15 February	BOT Meeting, Agri-Centre, 7pm
Fri 17 February	Swimming Finals
Sun 19 - Wed 22 February	Year 13 Geo/Bio trip to Tongariro
Wed 22 February	Year 9 Welcome Event and BBQ, 5pm
Wed 1 March	Hub and ID Photo catch-up
Tues Feb 28 - Sat 4 Mar	Year 10 Camp 1
Sat 4 - Wed 8 March	Year 10 Camp 2
Fri March 10	Athletics Finals
Tue 14 March	Central Zone Athletics Champs
Wed 15 - Fri 17 March	Mana Wahine Trip
Wed 15 March	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Tue 21 March	WAI/BOP SS Athletics Champs
Sun 26 - Thu 30 March	Year 13 Ag/Sci Trip
Sun 26 - Tue 28 March	Year 12 SPS Camp
Wed 29 March	Parent/Teacher Interviews
Thu 30 - Fri 31 March	Year 13 SPS Mountain Biking Trip
Thu 6 April	End Term 1
Mon 24 April	Start Term 2

HAVE YOU
DOWNLOADED OUR
SCHOOL APP YET?


NEVER MISS
IMPORTANT SCHOOL
INFORMATION AGAIN!



- * Events
- * Notices
- * Notification
- * Absentee
- * Newsletters
- * Permission Slips

Simple free download:
In the Play Store and App Store search 'Skool Loop NZ' and choose our school once installed.



FREE ABSENTEE APP

As well as easy school contact for absences, the Attendance App has all Morrinsville College Staff Contact Details, Calendar Events for the year and the latest Newsletter.

Go to Play Store or App Store. Download "Skool Loop NZ" App.

Select Waikato/Morrinsville College. When sending text, select Absentee, Send SMS, enter your child's full name & the reason for their absence. Send.

This is a free service.

Please continue to let us know when your child is absent by using the Absentee App or you can contact Lorraine

email: attendance@morrroll.school.nz
 phone: 889 8308
 Text: 0274 881 825



Lucas Hadj Blaha – Year 10, received these prizes today from Mr Jenkins after being overseas during the Junior prizegiving ceremony at the end of last year.

LUCAS HADJ BLAHA – YEAR 10

Commendation for Diligence and Progress in Economics

Winner of the STONYER TROPHY for Excellence in YEAR 10 SCIENCE, prize donated by UNICHEM MORRINSVILLE, Winner of the LOWE TROPHY for Excellence in YEAR 10 MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE, prize donated by HARRY'S STREET AND SURF, Winner of the KEVIN BLOXHAM CUP for Excellence in YEAR 10 MATHEMATICS, prize donated by MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE and Winner of the Prize for 10F for the BEST OVERALL IN THE CORE SUBJECTS, prize donated by MORRINSVILLE LIONS' CLUB COMBINED.

Lucas was also the Joint Winner of the MORRINSVILLE BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB CUP FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT JUNIOR LEVEL

Congratulations Lucas.